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INFO MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001759

BUENOS AIRES FOR EST

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/31/2009

TAGS: [MTCRE](#) [KSCA](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [ETTC](#) [TSPA](#) [AR](#)

SUBJECT: MTCR: ARGENTINE SPACE LAUNCH VEHICLE (SLV)
PROGRAM

REF: 08 BUENOS AIRES 1282 (AND PREVIOUS)

Classified By: ISN/MTR Director Pam Durham.
Reason: 1.5 (B), (D).

[11](#). (U) This is an action request. Embassy Buenos Aires, please see paragraph 4.

[12](#). (C) BACKGROUND: Per REF A, the United States and the government of Argentina (GOA) have agreed that Argentina will provide a one-time "state of play" briefing in Washington, D.C., in January-February 2009, on the status of Argentina's space launch vehicle (SLV) program. This briefing is to be followed by an expert level meeting in Buenos Aires sometime in the May-July 2009 timeframe, with subsequent expert-level meetings occurring approximately every six months thereafter, alternately in Washington, D.C. and Buenos Aires. In addition, the GOA has agreed to inform - possibly via a short information paper - the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC) countries of the status of Argentina's SLV program.

[13](#). (C) PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE: In furtherance of the GOA's agreement to provide a one-time "state of play" briefing for U.S. officials, on the status of Argentina's SLV program, the U.S. would like to invite Argentine National Commission on Aerospace Activities (CONAE) Director Dr. Conrado Varotto and other appropriate Argentine officials to Washington for such a meeting. We anticipate that these discussions will last no more than one half day and propose they take place on either Thursday, February 19 or Friday, February 20.

[14](#). (C) ACTION REQUEST: Request Embassy Buenos Aires convey, to CONAE Director Varotto and other appropriate Argentine officials, U.S. interest in receiving a one-time "state of play" briefing on Argentina's SLV program, as agreed in REF A. Also request post ascertain whether GOA officials are available to meet in Washington, D.C. for this purpose on either February 19 or February 20, and whether they prefer meetings beginning at 9:30 am or at 2:00 pm. As a fallback, post may propose Friday, February 27 for the briefing. If none of these dates are good for the GOA, post should urge Argentine officials to propose alternate dates, including in March. NOTE: U.S. officials are not available to meet with Argentine officials the week of February 9. END NOTE. Once we have agreed on a date for the briefing, we will provide the GOA with a list of U.S. participants and coordinate on logistics.

[15](#). (U) Washington POCs are ISN/MTR Director Pam Durham (Phone: 202-647-4931) and ISN/MTR Tony Tunyavongs (Phone: 202-736-7716). Please slug any reporting on this issue for ISN/MTR and WHA/BSC.
RICE

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End Cable Text